

# BOWLAND RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

---

## *ANNUAL REPORT*

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

1899.

---

### REGISTRATION SUB-DISTRICT POPULATION AND ACREAGE.

	Population.	Acres area.
Gisburn ... ..	2023	24547
Slaidburn ... ..	1489	45465
Clitheroe (Sub-District) ... ..	1636	11611
Whalley... ..	144	1720
	<hr/> 5292	<hr/> 83343



# To the Chairman and Gentlemen

OF THE

## Bowland Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

It is again my duty to present my Annual Report.

There have been 67 deaths during the year in the whole district, as against

Deaths.	Death rate per 1000 per annum.			
61 ... 1898	...	11.5	...	1898
92 ... 1897	...	17.3	...	1897
76 ... 1896	...	14.3	...	1896
83 ... 1895	...	15.68	...	1895
60 ... 1894	...	11.3	...	1894
75 ... 1893	...	14.17	...	1893
60 ... 1892	...	11.3	...	1892
97 ... 1891	...	18.3	...	1891
79 ... 1890	...	13.5	...	1890

This, therefore, gives a death-rate for the year 1899 of 12.6.

Of the 67 Deaths—

24	were registered at	Gisburn
15	„	„ Slaidburn.
26	„	„ Clitheroe (sub district).
2	„	„ Whalley.
<hr/>		
67		

Thirty-one were Males and 36 Females.

There were 9 deaths in children under five years, 6 of which were infants under one year.

Twenty-nine were old people of over 65 years, 3 deaths were from the emergencies of child birth.

There were 11 Deaths from Bronchitis and Pneumonia.

5	„	Heart Disease
4	„	Injuries.
1	„	Typhoid Fever.
46	„	All other causes.
<hr/>		
67		



A glance at the following Table will shew—

	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 60	60 and under 65	65 and upwards	Males.	Females
Typhoid Fever .....	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Bronchitis and Pneumonia .....	11	...	1	...	...	5	...	5	6	5
Heart Disease .....	5	...	...	...	...	2	...	3	3	2
Injury .....	4	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	1	3
Other Diseases .....	46	6	2	2	6	10	1	19	20	26
Total...	67	6	3	2	6	20	1	29	31	36

The Infantile death-rate is 45·8 per 1,000 per annum.

During the year there have been 9 Notifications of Infectious Disease—

4 from Slaidburn District.  
3 „ Clitheroe „  
2 „ Gisburn „

This is remarkably favourable as compared to other years, viz—

16 in 1898.  
19 „ 1897.  
31 „ 1896.  
11 „ 1895.  
34 „ 1894.  
41 „ 1893.  
27 „ 1892.

4 of the 9 were of superficial Erysipelas in Slaidburn District.  
2 „ were Scarlatina in the Clitheroe District.  
1 „ a mild form of Diphtheria at Waddington Vicarage.  
2 „ the unfortunate Typhoid cases at Bolton-by-Bowland.

There have been 4 Inquests held, and 2 Deaths were uncertified. In both cases the Coroner deemed it unnecessary to hold an Inquiry.

There were 131 Children born as against

117 in 1898.  
113 „ 1897.  
117 „ 1896.  
129 „ 1895.  
121 „ 1894.  
124 „ 1893.

Of these 76 were Male Children, and 55 Female Children.


40 were born in the Gisburn District.  
54 „ „ Slaidburn District.  
35 „ „ Clitheroe Sub-District.  
2 „ „ Whalley District.

131

The Birth-Rate for the whole district is thus 24·9 per 1,000 per annum.

The two cases of Scarlatina that were reported to me in October, and at West Bradford, were of the mildest form, and there was no further spread of the disease. These were the only cases that were reported during the year.

I made the necessary inquiry on the same day of the report as to the case of Diphtheria at Waddington, when I was assured by the medical attendant that this case was of a mild form.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2017 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28943715>

Now, with regard to the two cases of Typhoid that occurred at Bolton-by-Bowland, and in which I gave the probable cause as that of the water from Back Well.

I am aware that no other members of the family of either man had any symptoms of Typhoid, and I know too that these men walked together at the week-ends for miles, and might possibly have drunk polluted water at some out of the way place.

There is no doubt that both men broke down about the same time, and I think so surely, the infection of the one case was the same as that of the other, whatever it may have been.

In by far the greatest majority of cases of Typhoid, impure water is the cause of this disease.

With this idea, and as the Back Well was the supply from which both houses obtained their water, I at once took samples and forwarded to the County Analyst.

Dr. Kaye very kindly wrote to me, sending an analysis of the water, which I am sorry to say gave somewhat alarming results.

It was suggested, by a member of the Council, that as the season had been very dry, surface water or vegetable matter had got into the well, so it was proposed to have it thoroughly cleaned out, drained behind, &c.

This was done, and I again sent samples to Dr. Kaye, with the result a table of analysis was returned of not much better results than in the earlier one.

It is now proposed to cement the outer walls of the well, and to have it frequently cleaned, and that then a further analysis should be taken, and I would suggest that the opinion of the County Medical Officer should be taken as to whether the well should be closed to the public or not for drinking purposes.

Another thing of nearly equal importance is this, that in the villages and country generally, middens, vegetable matter, refuse, ashes, &c., are allowed to accumulate with the greatest indifference. Old carpets, old clothes, and other objectionable matter are invariably thrown into the brooks or highways.

Public tips for the disposal of the one, and occasional bon-fires for clearing off all cast off clothing, &c., is best. There is nothing like fire for clearing disease where it is practicable.

The re-arrangement of the tanks and filters, &c., of the Waddington water supply is very good.

The alterations at the inlet of the supply to the Alms Houses and to the Reader's House has been made and seems to be giving every satisfaction. There is no reason why this should not be so. The quality of the water is very good, and the quantity—excepting in very dry summer—very satisfactory. There is one fear, and that is pollution, at any point above the point of supply. I think that special notices should be issued forbidding pollution under the pain of heavy penalty. You see the whole of the inhabitants of this large village (Waddington) are entirely dependant on the purity of its water supply.

I find that there is a very impure and inadequate Water Supply to the Farms called "Leemings," "Thornber's Fold," and "Thwaites'," all by the road side above Waddington. I have reported this matter before and I consider it important that the water should be at once attended to.

At present, the water simply drains off the land into a sort of ditch and away down the road side to the lowest farm, "Thwaites'."

I do not wish to say anything further about the water supply to "Monebent" and "Carter Lane Head," excepting that it is a matter that will incur considerable expense and much difficulty. I therefore now leave the matter for the further consideration of the Council.





The Schools are all clean and in a good sanitary condition.

Two new houses have been built, and West Bradford is getting well nigh remodelled.

Mr. Burrow has treated 20 cases of nuisance during the year.

Two new ordinary closets have been built.

Two ordinary closets have been converted into water closets.

In conclusion, and although the year has been so exceptionally free from fevers of any kind, yet we know not how soon it may come—it seems to me most important that notices should be issued through the whole district, as to the accumulation of ashes, filth and vegetable matter, and to insist on its regular and frequent removal.

Although the pail system has been much adopted—and very properly so too—in some cases it is in itself a nuisance from exactly the same cause, the want of regular and frequent removal.

With the exception of occasional cases of Influenza, &c., there was very little sickness in any part of the district at the end of the year.

Yours obediently,

*Joseph J. Smithies.*

February 6th, 1900.

